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Message Text

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47
ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SNM-02 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

SY-04 SS-20 NSC-07 DRC-01 PRS-01 /067 W
---------- 030944
R 051950Z JUL 74
FM AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5129
INFO DEA HQS WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L KINGSTON 2314

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: SNAR, PINT, JM
SUBJECT: PUBLICITY ON OPERATION BUCCANEER

1. I WAS VERY MUCH DISMAYED TO READ THE NEWS ITEM QUOTED BELOW WHICH APPEARED UNDER BANNER HEADLINES ON THE FRONT PAGE OF THE JULY 2 DAILY NEWS. GOJ OFFICIALS HAVE ALSO REACTED VERY NEGATIVELY TO THE PUBLICITY. AS WASHINGTON AGENCIES ARE AWARE, BUCCANEER IS NOT ONLY POTENTIALLY A VERY SENSITIVE OPERATION IN JAMAICA BUT ALSO INVOLVES THE PERSONAL SAFETY OF MANY U.S. AND JAMAICAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS. THUS FAR, BOTH WE AND THE GOJ HAVE MANAGED TO KEEP THE PUBLICITY ON BUCCANEER AT A LOW LEVEL. THE COOPERATIONOF ALL AGENCIES AND PERSONNEL INVOLVED IN BUCCANEER IS ESSENTIAL, HOWEVER, IF WE ARE TO PROTECT BOTH THE FUTURE INTEGRITY OF THE OPERATION AND THE SAFETY OF PERSONNEL. ALL FURTHER PUBLIC STATEMENTS OR MEDIA INTERVIEWS ON BUCCANEER MUST BE COORDINATED IN ADVANCE WITH THIS EMBASSY

2. FOLLOWING IS THE NEWS ITEM:

" THE EFFECT OF JAMAICA' ANTI-GUN AND ANTI-GANJA CAMPAIGN IS NOW BEGINNING TO BE FELT IN NORTH AMERICA, TOP OFFICIALS OF THE DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION OF THE US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICEHAVE SAID.

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" AND THEY PREDICT THAT THE NEXT THREE MONTHS WILL BE

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CRITICAL IN THE CAMPAIGN,AND COULD POSSIBLY INVOLVE
'DESPERATE ACTIONS' BY THE BIG INTERNATIONAL
TRAFFICKERS WHOSE 'BUSINESS' WAS BEING CHOKED OFF.

" THEY TOLD THE DAILY NEWS IN A FACE-TO-FACE INTERVIEW IN
MIAMI LAST WEEK THAT THE BULK OF JAMAICAN GANJA
REACHED THE US BY BOATS WHICH CARRIED SUBSTANTIAL
CARGOES COMPARED TO THE SMALL CONSIGNMENTS IN AIRCRAFT.
AND THEY ADDED THAT THE US REGULATIONS HAD NOW MADE
THE PURCHASE OF BOATS AND AIRCRAFT MORE DIFFICULT.
" THE JUSTICEDEPARTMENT SPOKESMEN SAID THAT THE JAMAICAN
AND US GOVERNMENTS WERE NOW DISCUSSING THE STRENGTHENING
OF THE JAMAICAN SEA DEFENCES. BUT THEY DID NOT REVEAL
WHETHER US AID IN THIS DIRECTION WOULD TAKE THE FORM
OF MONEY OR BOATS, OR BOTH

" THEY CONFIRMED THATIN ADDITION TO JAMAICA'S UNENVIABLE
REPUTATION FOR GANJA, THE ISLAND HAD BECOME
AN IMPORTANT TRANS-SHIPMENT PORT FOR HARD DRUGS,
PARTICULARLY COCAINE FROM LATIN AMERICA TO THE US

" THE US OFFICIALS ESTIMATED THAT AT THE HIGH POINT
OF THE ILLEGAL TRAFFIC, ABOUT ONE TON OF GANJA FROM
JAMAICA REACHES THE UNITED STATES EACH DAY THROUGH
DIFFERENT POINTS, PREDOMINANTLY THE FLORIDA COAST,
INCLUDING MIAMI. THEY SAID THAT AT US$150 TO US$200
PER POUND, WHILE THIS REPRESENTED JUST UNDER $1/2
MILLION PER DAY, IT COULD FETCH UP TO $1.5 MILLION
DEPENDING ON MARKET CONDITIONS AND DISTANCES FROM THE
POINT OF ENTRY.

". THE US SPOKESMEN SPOKE HIGHLY OF THE "STRONG RAPPORT"
BETWEEN THEIR DEPARTMENTS AND THE LOCAL MINISTRY OF
NATIONAL SECURITY AND JUSTICE, WHICH HAD RESULTED IN
MANY VIOLATORS BEING CAUGHT EITHER AT THE US OR
JAMAICAN END OF THE 'TRAIL'.

". THEY EXPRESSED CONFIDENCE THAT THE JAMAICAN CAMPAIGN
WOULD SUCCEED AND REVEALED THAT ALREADY THE DANGERS OF
THE JAMAICAN SITUATION HAD FORCED THE US DRUG UNDER-
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GROUND TO BE LOOKING AROUND AT COLUMBIA, BRAZIL
VENEZUELA AND PERU AS ALTERNATIVE SOURCES OF SUPPLY,
AND THAT THOSE
GOVERNMENTS HAD BEEN ALERTED". GERARD

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Message Attributes

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Draft Date: 05 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
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